



There are 115 rooms and suites to choose from at the Waynesville Golf Resort and Spa.

Waynesville's 27 holes centerpiece of mountain resort

By **BETSEY MITCHELL**

Golf vacations are great. For the lucky ones who get to play all the time, a trip away from golf can also be a treat. The Waynesville Inn Golf Resort & Spa is the perfect solution for both. Located just west of Asheville and minutes from Interstate 40, it is easy to find and in every way – a cool destination.

The Dogwood, Carolina and Blue Ridge layouts (a total of 27 holes) continue to reflect their original Donald Ross design and the extra nine holes assure excellent tee time availability. This is the best in resort golf: nothing treacherous or over-powering for the average golfer. Still the courses are challenging and diverse enough to hold your attention. Narrow fairways, healthy rough and Ross-scaled greens make for a fun day for all. There are many breath-taking views.

The 4-star Golf Digest rating reflects why so many tournaments return every year, including the Great Smokies Women's Intercollegiate tournament hosted by Western Carolina. Sales Manager Jeffery Young reports, "There are several events held throughout the

year and it's not uncommon for the participants to sign up for the next year before they head back home."

When planning your trip to the Waynesville Inn, be sure to allow for plenty of time because you will want to take full advantage of all that Waynesville has to offer. There are 115 rooms and suites to choose from. They range from the very private penthouse suite to adjoining cottages for friends and family to classic hotel rooms situated in the original historic lodge dating back to 1926.

The Golfview accommodations with patio or balcony views of the Carolina course and mountain range beyond are smartly designed. Any golf traveler would be comfortable in these rooms. The walk-in closet provides ample storage for all that bulky golf luggage. There is a bar with sink and refrigerator to help keep the post-game party going. You can let the cool mountain air drift through your room by opening the pair of screened doors. The ceiling fan keeps the fresh air moving. Of course there is air conditioning, but that fresh mountain air can be irresistible.

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Be sure to schedule some time – maybe a lot of time away from the golf course. The Waynesville Inn is just minutes away from the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park offering a wide variety of activities including biking, fishing, hiking, and horse back riding. Maybe a tour of the Biltmore Estate is more to your taste. That's also a short ride from the resort.

Have you considered fly fishing? There are more than lost golf balls in those bubbling mountain brooks. The helpful resort staff can provide you with plenty of insider knowledge to plan a guided fly-fishing trip. Or, let them direct you to the best hiking trails to see a beautiful sunset. Then again, you may prefer to wile away the day in one of the many porch rockers just waiting to get you through a lazy afternoon.

Main Street in Waynesville is blocks away. There are so many wonderful shops to explore with unique items created by local artisans. Check the Waynesville cultural events calendar if you want to plan your trip around one of the music or theatre happen-



The first hole on the Dogwood Course, one of 27 that serve as the centerpiece of the Waynesville Golf Resort and Spa.

ings. Look closely and you will find the sculpture of the fox with the funky whiskers.

Of course, all busy days begin and end with food. Start your day at the casual, smoke-free Tap Room Grill offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Be sure to experience fine dining at the newly opened Cork & Clever, a beautiful dining room and excellent fare to match.

The Waynesville Inn Golf Resort & Spa is open year-round, including the golf courses. Now is a perfect time to go and experience the glorious fall colors. However, if you wait a bit you can find some extra special rates from November to May. For complete details go to www.TheWaynesvilleInn.com or call 800-627-6250.